

excellent man he was, but unfortunately he had an attack of paralysis, that drew one corner of his mouth almost around to his ear. One day he was coming down on the cars to the city of Annapolis. A stranger came into the car where he was; my friend here (Mr. Hopkins) knows very well who he was. A stranger got in, took a good look at him, and said—"You can't do it." He then turned away and walked off. A little while after he came back again, took another look, and said—"I tell you, you can't do it." He then went away, and again returned, and said the third time—"I tell you, you can't do it." [Laughter.] "Why," said the old gentleman, who began to be a little vexed, "why, sir, what do you mean?" Said the stranger—"You have been trying to bite that left ear off for the last half hour, and I tell you, you can't do it." [Loud laughter.] Now, I want to say to my democratic friends, you may galvanize the old corpse; you may throw its limbs into all sorts of convulsions and contortions; you may make it grin horribly; but if you dream or hope that you can bring it to life again, I tell you, "you can't do it." [Renewed laughter.] You may as well give it up. Yet that is about what all this talk amounts to, in my opinion.

Now, let us be serious for a moment. I am an emancipationist. I have printed my platform, and I circulated it all around my county. I have a copy of it here, which I will read to my democratic friends:

"To the voters of Howard county; * * * we are in favor of a Convention."

Well, we are here to-night. Our friends, the peace democracy, and half and half Union men, and all of that ilk, tried to prevent us from coming here, but they could not do it.

"We are in favor of emancipation."

Of course gentlemen know now how we are going to vote. We are pledged; we did not do this thing behind the bush; we told our people exactly what we meant to do, and they sent us here to do what we promised. And I should be unfit for a place here or anywhere else among honest and honorable men, if I failed to keep my pledges to the people who sent me here.

"We pledge ourselves to use all honorable means to secure from the General Government just and adequate compensation to all who may be entitled to it for the liberated slaves."

And that pledge is going to be kept so far as I am concerned.

"We are unalterably opposed to the modern doctrine of State compensation."

Of course, gentlemen, you know now where we and the people are on this question.

"For this opposition we assign our reasons."

Now, I want you to listen to these reasons; they are very brief, but they are my reasons. I want you to understand that I have not

what you call fanaticism. No, sir; no modern philanthropy upon the subject with me.

"All that our State now wants to make it almost an empire, is capital, enterprise, labor."

Now, who doubts that proposition? We have the material for a splendid little empire within our limits. And all we want to develop them are capital, enterprise and labor.

"To burden the State with a new debt of ten or twenty millions of dollars—the principal and interest of which would have to be provided for by a fearful augmentation of our taxes; would deter capital from coming to the State; would cripple enterprise in the State; would drive labor from the State. It would keep Maryland half a desert when she might be altogether a garden. Another and weighty reason is, that in undertaking to pay for the slaves, the State would be virtually creating an immense corporation with a capital of not less than ten millions of dollars; stockholdership in which corporation would be attainable only by those who owned negroes. It would give to those who now own slaves a moneyed power, which would lord it over the people as absolutely as ever the defunct oligarchy did. Let the people beware!"

Poor workingmen, who are to come out in such swarms to vote for the peace democracy, better think about that as well as other things. The next is local, which you do not understand, but I do.

"Nor do we profess to be waiting for any new light."

I understand that also.

"We proclaim unreservedly our principles, and are willing to stand or fall with them."

(Signed,) JOEL HOPKINS, M. D.,
JAMES SYKES,"

and your humble servant, P. P., Clerk of the Parish. [Laughter.]

Now, how shall I vote under these circumstances? Break my pledges to the people? Vote against emancipation? Vote for compensation? You are honorable gentlemen, and you would not ask me to do that, any more than I would ask you to vote against your pledges, which I do not intend to do.

One word more and I have done. Over and above all I have urged on this subject, there comes up one grand, supreme, overshadowing idea. I think next to my mother I love my country. It is said we should love our country first. But I had such a good mother, she was so kind and indulgent to me, wayward and good-for-nothing as I was, that I believe I love her best. But after her, I love my country, its history, its progress, its freedom, its power, its glory; they are all to me living, vital, lovely and beloved things. And the conviction has gone down into the very depths of my soul that the great enemy of my country, the enemy at whose door I lay all the